project reports were submitted by State Government which have been examined in GFCC and comments furnished to the State Government.

In addition to the above, Government of India is rendering assistance to Bihar for maintenance of Kosi Project (Nepal portion) and also for raising and strengthening of embankments of Kamla and Bagmati. For long-term measures of flood management, a Joint Project Office has been opened in Nepal for taking up the field investigations and preparation of Detailed Project Report of Sapta Kosi High Dam Multipurpose Project and Sun Kosi Storage-Cum-Diversion Scheme.

Chief Ministers Conference on Inter-Linking of Rivers

3541. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to convene a meeting of Chief Ministers next month to evolve consensus on programme to inter-link rivers;

(b) if so, whether Ministry has decided to hold bilateral discussions with State concerned to understand and address their apprehensions on issue;

(c) if so, what are main difficulties these State Governments have pointed out to Ministry; and

(d) whether Ministry is prepared to overcome these difficulties of States in implementing the inter-linking of rivers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) No date has been fixed for holding the meeting with Chief Ministers of States to evolve concensus on inter-linking of rivers. A group has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Central Water Commission Chairman, (CWC) in 2002 to arrive at consensus among the States.

Secretary (WR) held a meeting with Chief Secretaries of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan on 11.01.2005 for sorting out issues for signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPR) for Ken-Betwa & Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal link. The State Governments raised apprehensions on sharing cost of the project, loss of hydropower due to the proposed links, control mechanism for link

and structures of project and sharing of water etc. Subsequently, Government of Uttar Pradesh has conveyed their conditional consent for signing of MoU for preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPR) of Ken-Betwa link in March, 2005. Government of Madhya Pradesh has already conveyed their consent for preparation of DPR of the link. Regarding Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal link while Government of Madhya Pradesh has already conveyed their consent for preparation of DPR of this link, Government of Rajasthan has not conveyed their decision.

Talks with Nepal on Flood

†3542. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have initiated a talk with Nepal during the last years to save Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal from the threat of flood caused by the water of the rivers coming from Nepal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have decided to contact Nepalese Government to prepare an action plan to make progress in this direction during the year 2005-2006;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasosn therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. The Government of India is having continuous dialogue with the Government of Nepal on various issues related to water resources development on the rivers common to India and Nepal.

Some of the important achievements are as under:

(i) Field investigations for Sapta Kosi High Dam Multipurpose Project and Sun Kosi Storage cum diversion scheme has been taken up and for this purpose Joint Project Office has been opened in Nepal August, 2004.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.